

LIVES ENDANGERED BY VACCINATION.

No Laws for Supervising the
Manufacture and Sale of
Vaccine Virus.

MENACE TO THE PUBLIC.

Compulsory Vaccination of School
Children and No Precau-
tions as to Pure Lymph.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BACILLI.

Bacteriologist Pittfield Found That
There Were No Safeguards Against
the Spread of Diseases Worse
Than Smallpox.

The revised by-laws of the Board of Education make it compulsory on every pupil and teacher in New York to be vaccinated. In view of this the question whether compulsory vaccination should be enforced by law is of timely interest. The subject will be fully discussed in the next number of the Medico-Legal Journal by President Clark Bell of the Medico-Legal Congress. From advance sheets of his article, the following points are obtained:

Mr. Bell makes the startling assertion that although every child must be vaccinated before he or she is permitted to enter the public schools, no supervision now exists over the manufacture or production of the virus used.

It is only a short time ago that Dr. Montague H. Levenson made a spirited public attack on the practice of vaccination. Quite recently, too, a royal commission in England made an adverse report on the agitation in favor of compulsory vaccination.

Opposed to Compulsion.
To find out how the lymph now in general use is obtained, and what supervision or precaution is observed as to its genuineness and purity, President Bell addressed letters to the boards of health in all the neighboring States and cities, and to men eminent in the medical profession, asking them also to express their opinions as to compulsory vaccination.

President George B. Fowler, of the Health Board of this city, in his reply said: "This Board is not in favor of compulsory vaccination and never has been. It is acting under the State laws when it assists the Board of Education in securing the vaccination of pupils and teachers. So thorough has this co-operation been carried out that in the last ten years, during which three epidemics of smallpox have occurred in this city, not a single pupil or teacher connected with the public schools has been reported to this department as suffering with smallpox. The reason the Board of Health does not believe in compulsory vaccination is because it is believed that such a statute would result in antagonism to the work which would defeat the object it has secured in the way of gratuitous and voluntary vaccination and the comparative immunity from smallpox for which this city is noted."

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ment, said that he did not favor a general State law enforcing compulsory vaccination, but that for local purposes in cities or villages having a population of 1,000 or over where large numbers of school children congregate there should be compulsory vaccination as a precedent to secure admission.

"The experience of other countries and in this city," he added, "in checking the spread of smallpox by carefully selected vaccine virus introduced into the human system by proper antiseptic means seems to set the seal of its legitimacy for public policy and universal protection beyond all question. The public protection is paramount to any and all private interests."

"In my position on the question of vaccination," wrote Professor Eugene Foster, dean of the faculty of the College of Georgia, "I am sustained by almost every reputable medical man in the civilized world. I do not attempt to argue the good policy of compulsory vaccination; this is a question entirely separate and distinct from its efficiency and safety, and many of the best members of the medical profession seem to me in doubt, if they are not actually opposed to, compulsory vaccination."

Signs of Overdoing It.
"In common with others," said Colonel W. P. Prentice, counsel for the health authorities, "I have not ceased to regret the unwise proceedings which have been occasionally undertaken in defence of health and sanitary laws, weakening their proper force. I believe we have at present sufficient laws if they are only administered and properly enforced."

So much for opinions as to the advisability of compulsory vaccination. Now as to the measures taken to insure pure virus. Secretary C. S. Lindsley, of the State Board of Health of Connecticut, declared that in most States there is no legalised supervision.

"The only security that the lymph I use is pure," he added, "is the known care and precaution which are used by the best producers, except when I use humanized lymph, and then my security is my own personal knowledge of the health of the subject from which it is taken."

Dr. Samuel W. Abbott, secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Health, said: "Very little supervision is exercised in this country over the production of vaccine lymph. In my opinion all vaccine production should be under the supervision of the State or national authorities. The security now given is the guarantee of the producer. The principal fault in vaccine production in the country is due to the fact that while the question has been treated commercially instead of scientifically."

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Usual prices 2.50 and 3.00.

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Usually 1.50 and 1.75.

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75 dozen Ladies' High Cut Jersey Leggings. 99c

99c.

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"It seems to be true that there is no State or official supervision over the manufacture or sale of the vaccine matter now in universal use, and this, when vaccination is compulsory, is inexcusable neglect. The manufacture at present is a purely commercial and business matter, and it is very doubtful whether the courts would sustain the enforced vaccination of a citizen against his will, without the State itself assuming the responsibility, not alone of the purity of the virus, but of the outcome of the administration."

CHESHIRE ALUMNI:

Graduates of the Oldest Church School in America Will Banquet at the Waldorf.

The Alumni Association of Cheshire Academy, the oldest church school in the country, will enjoy a banquet at the Waldorf Tuesday night. The association numbers over 1,200 members, and on its rolls are the names of many who have won distinction in various walks of life.

Among those who will be present are J. Pierpont Morgan, Professor Andrew W. Phillips, of Yale University; C. La Rue Munson, president of the association; Herbert B. Turner, Rev. John Williams, of the Church of the Heavenly Rest; James B. Dill, Howard G. Curtis, Dr. H. Holbrook Curtis, Dr. W. K. Simpson, Dr. Albert Thomas, A. B. Abernethy, Roland A. Robbins, Gustav Preston, Boston; Colonel P. H. Corr, Providence; Rev. Dr. Mallory, editor of the *Champlain*; Rev. E. S. Lines, New Haven, and Professor E. D. Woodbury, principal of the academy. A list of formal toasts has been prepared, which will be responded to by Professor Woodbury, Professor Phillips, Professor Luther,

of Trinity College; President Munson, William Ordway Partridge and Herbert B. Turner.

The Episcopal Academy of Connecticut was founded, under diocesan control, in 1794. The first steps were taken toward its foundation at a convention of the clergy of Connecticut, held at East Haddam, February 15, 1792, at which it was "voted that the several clergy make inquiry of their neighbors whether the courts would sustain the enforced vaccination of a citizen against his will, without the State itself assuming the responsibility, not alone of the purity of the virus, but of the outcome of the administration."

There the matter seems to have rested until the general convention in 1794 appointed a committee to prepare an address setting forth the importance of establishing a church school, and to circulate subscription papers to raise the necessary funds. A year later this committee reported to a convention held at Stratford that a considerable sum had been raised by private subscription and that the towns of Wallingford and Cheshire had each offered inducements to have the school located within their boundaries. This convention was the last presided over by the venerable Bishop Seabury, the first bishop of the church in America. The proposition from Cheshire was accepted, that town giving a tract of land and a considerable sum of money to the enterprise. The convention elected a board of trustees and formulated a constitution, which was approved by the synod.

The school was opened at once in a temporary building, under the charge of Rev. Mr. Bronson, a young clergyman. The corner stone of the original academy building was laid April 28, 1796. The building was completed the Fall of the same year, and still stands, surrounded by a group of modern buildings, which the growth of the school made necessary. The first principal was Rev. Dr. Bowden, who was assistant minister at Trinity Church, New York, at the breaking out of the Revolutionary War.

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